

NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural Marketing Service
Specialty Crops Program
Market News Division

Federal Market News Service
1400 Independence Ave, SW
STOP 0238

Washington, DC 20250

Phone: 202-720- 2175 FAX: 202-720-0547

Website: www.marketnews.usda.gov/mnp/fv-home
www.ams.usda.gov/mnreports/fvmhoney.pdf

Number XXXVI - # 10

Issued Monthly

October 25, 2016

HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 2016

IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated.

- REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY - (# Some in Small Lot --- +Some delayed payments or previous commitment)

CALIFORNIA

Cotton	Extra Light Amber	\$1.70	
Valley	Extra Light Amber	\$1.80	
Valley	Light Amber	\$1.80	

COLORADO

Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.90	
---------	-------------	--------	--

DAKOTAS

Alfalfa	White	\$1.70	
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$1.70	
Buckwheat	Light Amber	\$1.60	- \$1.65
Canola	White	\$1.65	- \$1.70
Canola	Extra Light Amber	\$1.68	
Clover	White	\$1.65	- \$1.80
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.65	- \$1.75

FLORIDA

Brazilian Pepper	Light Amber	\$1.60	
Gallberry	Extra Light Amber	\$1.60	
Gallberry	Light Amber	\$1.60	
Mangrove	Extra Light Amber	\$1.60	
Mangrove	Light Amber	\$1.60	
Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.60	
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$2.05	

GEORGIA

Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.60	
------------	-------------	--------	--

HAWAII

Macadamia	Light Amber	\$1.60	
-----------	-------------	--------	--

IDAHO

Clover	White	\$1.65	
Mint	Light Amber	\$1.55	
Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.55	

IOWA

Alfalfa	White	\$1.70	
Clover	White	\$1.70	

LOUISIANA

Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.60	
--------	-------------	--------	--

MICHIGAN

Star Thistle	White	\$2.00	
--------------	-------	--------	--

MINNESOTA

Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75	
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75	

MISSISSIPPI

Gullberry	Light Amber	\$1.75	
Tallow	White	\$1.60	
Tallow	Extra Light Amber	\$1.60	
Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.60	
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.60	
Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.60	

MONTANA

Alfalfa	White	\$1.70	
Clover	White	\$1.75	
Clover	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75	

NEW YORK

Wildflower	Light Amber	\$2.40	
------------	-------------	--------	--

OHIO

Clover	White	\$1.70	
--------	-------	--------	--

OREGON

Alfalfa	White	\$1.65	
Canola	White	\$1.65	
Mint	White	\$1.65	
Mint	Amber	\$1.55	

WASHINGTON

Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$1.65	- \$1.70
Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.85	
Alfalfa	Amber	\$1.55	
Carrot	Amber	\$1.60	
Wildberry	White	\$2.30	
Wildberry	Extra Light Amber	\$2.30	

WYOMING

Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.65	
---------	-------------	--------	--

Prices paid to Canadian Beekeepers for unprocessed, bulk honey by packers and importers in U. S. currency, f.o.b. shipping point, containers included unless otherwise stated. Duty and crossing charges extra. Cents per pound.

Canola	White	\$0.97	- \$1.23
Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.03	- \$1.04

Prices paid to importers for bulk honey, duty paid, containers included, cents per pound, ex-dock or point of entry unless otherwise stated.

ARGENTINA

Mixed Flowers	White	\$0.91	- \$0.93
Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$0.89	- \$0.97
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$0.83	- \$0.93

BRAZIL

Orange Blossom	Extra Light	\$1.98	
ORGANIC	Extra Light	\$1.86	
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.71	- \$1.88
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.50	

INDIA

Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$0.89	- \$0.93
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$0.84	- \$0.92
Mustard	Extra Light	\$0.89	
Mustard	Light Amber	\$0.87	
ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.75	

MEXICO								
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$.91		Mixed Flowers	Amber	\$0.70	-	\$.72
Orange	White	\$1.95		ORGANIC	Amber	\$.72		
Orange	Extra Light	\$1.90		UKRAINE				
Organic	Light Amber	\$1.70		Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$.93		
VIETNAM				Sunflower	White	\$.88		
Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$0.80	-	Sunflower	Light Amber	\$.88		
		\$.89						

COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING SEPTEMBER, 2016

APPALACHIAN DISTRICT (MD, PA, VA, WV): There was some relief from the drought conditions in September as showers and thunderstorms finally arrived near the end of the month. Temperatures did continue above normal, but the cool fronts returned temperatures to more normal levels by mid-month. Bees that would forage were doing so on various wildflowers such as asters, goldenrod, joe-pye weed, and milkweed. Beekeepers continue to provide sugar water to colonies in some areas of the District where pollen and nectar sources are limited. Beekeepers are also preparing for various state and county association meetings.

ALABAMA: Now that the fall season is in full blossom and the year is coming to a production end, it can be said that, due to long season dryness, only a decent honey crop was obtained in much of the state. As is so often the case in statewide weather patterns, the southern parts of the state from Dothan to Mobile had ample moisture of a while, but even now that part of the state is dry.

Goldenrod and fall asters are in bloom, but little nectar – is any is being – produced by these common fall plants statewide. Diseases have only been typical problems and small hive beetles continue to annoy and even cause absconding to occur. Indeed, several reports of absconding have been reported. The lack of moisture mostly likely paid a part in this behavior.

Finally after many months of trying, oxalic acid as a control for Varroa mites has been approved in Alabama. Beekeepers were glad to get that news.

ARIZONA: Temperatures in Arizona were at above normal levels during the first week of September, were at normal levels the second week of the month, and were below normal levels for the remainder of the month. The range statewide in temperatures for the month was from a high of 114 degrees Fahrenheit in Yuma to a low of 26 degrees Fahrenheit in Springerville.

During the month of September, the weekly number of reporting stations across Arizona to receive precipitation (out of 50 stations) were 30, 30, 24 and 13, respectively. Out of the 50 reporting stations, 15 are at above normal precipitation levels for the year, with 35 stations at below normal levels for the year.

The main nectar and pollen sources for bees in the state during the month of September was desert plant bloom, alfalfa, cotton, with some cantaloupes and honeydews. Demand for honey was good.

ARKANSAS: No report issued.

CALIFORNIA: The month started out dry, with cooling temperatures finally beginning to move into the State. Cooler air settled across the mountains, the valley early in the week, and into the southern desert. Temperatures fluctuated throughout the month, as we headed into fall. There was no measurable rainfall in the state. Towards the close of September a few rain showers fell in the Sierra, mixed with snow showers at higher elevations, however mountain tops still remain absent of snow.

The bee colonies are starting to be moved into winter locations, and the hives have become more compact. Bees are being fed sugar syrup and supplemental feeding will begin later this month. On the warmer parts of each day the bees are very active and appear to bring in pollen on their own. Early in the month, some colonies were moved into the Sierra foothills to take advantage of the Tarweed bloom. Very little pollen and nectar was gathered, however. Some bees were still working melon and squash fields. Beekeepers are in the process of extracting the last bit of honey for the season. Overall bee health is good, and colonies appear to have produced a good supply of winter bees.

FLORIDA: Hurricane Hermine crossed the northwestern part of Florida in early September resulting in heavy rainfall totals in many areas and some wind damage, but not much reported damage to bees. Most other areas of the state experienced about normal temperature and precipitation for the month. Many beekeepers reported their bees were in the best condition that had seen in the last five years or more. A few reported higher than expected death losses primarily from varroa mite infestations. There was an occasional report of death losses from increased mosquito spraying or spraying specifically done to control the Zika virus, but those losses appeared to be minimal. Brazilian Pepper starting blooming on the West coast and was in full bloom on the East coast before the end of the month, approximately two weeks ahead of schedule. Spanish Needle, Goldenrod and assorted wildflowers were also available in most areas. Supplemental feeding was considered by some to be necessary. Preliminary reports from the West coast indicated that Brazilian Pepper honey production was considered to be about normal although prices were reported to be in the \$1.50-\$1.60 per pound range. This would be considerably less than last year's \$2.00+ reported by most beekeepers. It will be about two more weeks before much honey will be removed from the hives and a better estimate of honey production can be made. Supplies of honey available for sale remain light with good demand.

GEORGIA: A lighter Fall honey crop is expected this year in most areas in the Central and Southern areas of the state. The Northern areas have fared better and should have a nice Sourwood crop this year. A few minor problems with the last storms that came through in September with excess water from rain and wind blown objects and debris. Most of the beekeepers are busy cleaning up the yards and preparing the hives for the fall months to get enough food in before winter arrives.

Prices have dropped this year with offerings of \$1.50 to \$1.75 with an average of \$1.60 for bakery grade honey. Competition from Canada and Argentina have stirred up the domestic offerings and some are waiting to sell in anticipation of stronger price returns later.

Many areas of the state are having drought conditions, while some areas are in good shape. Some reports of Varroa Mites have shown up in hives not continuously treated and are being managed at this time for further preventive measures.

IDAHO, COLORADO, UTAH: During the month of September temperatures were above normal over most areas of Colorado and Utah. Most areas of Idaho had below normal temperatures during the same period. Precipitation was normal to below normal across most of Idaho, Utah and Colorado with the exception of above normal precipitation around Vernal, Utah during the month of September, according to the National Weather Service.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Colorado continues to have near normal moisture conditions across most areas of the State in September with the exception of continued abnormally dry conditions in the Northwest and Northcentral part of the State. Normal moisture conditions are present in Southeast and Southwest Utah and the Southwestern area of the State of Idaho. There were abnormally dry conditions in the rest of Idaho and most other areas in Utah. An area south of the Great Salt Lake in Utah was experiencing a moderate to severe drought during the month of September.

The 2016 honey production year is certainly not turning out as good as commercial honey producers had hoped for across Colorado, Utah and Idaho. Many commercial beekeepers are still harvesting honey, but should finish around the end of September or first part of October. What honey has been harvested looks like a quality crop. With warmer temperatures still prevailing in Idaho, Utah and Colorado, beekeepers indicated that bees are still flying. And although there is not much nectar available from foraging activities, there is still a fair amount of pollen that is making its way back to the bee colonies. According to commercial beekeepers, most of their bees are looking very healthy and heavy at this time. They have not experienced many bee losses in September as well.

As beekeepers pull off frames of honey, they are feeding supplemental diets at this point on an as needed basis to build colonies going into the fall and winter period. They are also treating for varroa mites. Varroa mite tests seem to be coming in at manageable levels at the end of September.

Overall demand for Idaho, Utah and Colorado honey is still very good and exceeds the local domestic production capacity. Current commercial prices for white honey range from \$1.70 to \$1.85 per pound depending upon quality and quantity. Extra light amber is around \$1.80 per pound and Light amber is around \$1.65 per pound at the wholesale level. With the reports of lower than normal honey production in Idaho, Colorado and Utah this season, revenue from pollination services becomes very important moving forward for commercial beekeepers to remain viable. According to commercial beekeepers, the driving force on the lower prices they currently receive is influenced greatly by cheaper priced imported honey coming into the United States. Due to the currency rates favoring imported honey compared to domestic honey, many commercial beekeepers are having a harder time turning a profit. Most commercial beekeepers plan on staying in their home States until November. At that time commercial beekeepers from Utah and Colorado will be heading south or on to California. Some commercial beekeepers in Idaho will start placing their bees in storage sheds starting in November.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures for the month of September started with higher than normal temperatures with a few days of 80 degrees, but later in the month temperatures were down in the mid to low 60s. There was a light amount rainfall. Some beekeepers are having problems with mites and beetles and are treating accordingly. Most beekeepers report that their bees are in good to excellent condition. Beekeepers also report a little bit of foliage for their bees to feed on, such as goldenrod and aster. Production has varied around the state. Some Beekeepers report a fair amount, while others say there has been very little production. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

INDIANA: Temperatures for the month of September were good and have recently turned cooler with most days in the 60s. Rainfall in most parts of the state was above average for this time of the year. Beekeepers report that their bees continue to feed on foliage, such as goldenrod. Beekeepers report their bees in good condition and that they have a healthy population. Beekeepers report a presence of mites and have begun treatment with oxalic acid. Beekeepers report that they have had acceptable production in September. Prices are generally unchanged.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: Weather conditions were mostly hot and humid. Temperatures and precipitation were above normal. Nebraska experienced below normal temperatures as cooler conditions were recorded.

Beekeepers were busy harvesting and pulling remaining supers, attending meetings, classes and winterizing bees. There were mixed reports of crop success as some beekeeper pulled a good crop as others harvested less or little. European Foulbrood was experienced by some beekeepers. Treatment was encouraged. The queen egg production continues to slow as drones population dwindles. Bees were working various fall ornamentals. Honey demand and sales remain strong.

KENTUCKY: September seemed to start slowly in terms of a nectar flow for KY beekeepers throughout the Commonwealth. In doing USDA-APHIS Honey Bee samples around the state, many hives were bringing in nectar from sunflowers, asters, goldenrod, and smartweed although only in moderate amounts. Ironweed flowers seemed to be a bit of disappointment. Many beekeepers needed to provide supplemental feed or equalize by moving honey from strong hives to first-year hives or hives started from swarms. A lot of backyard beekeepers have taken no honey at all for fear of leaving their hives without stores. There have also been more than a few beekeepers reporting high mite counts and some related varroa-mite damages, such as deformed wing virus, Israeli Acute Bee Paralysis virus, and deformed bee larvae. Furthermore, because high temperatures extended well into September (the first day of Fall was 92 degrees F), small hive beetles have been a serious problem, with backyard beekeepers reporting losses throughout the state. There have also been robbing incidents because beekeepers do not realize how dry it is for this month, and have inadvertently triggered robbing when leaving hives open or supers exposed a bit too long.

LOUISIANA: No report issued.

MICHIGAN: The fall flow has been spotty and many hives are light on winter stores. Beekeepers have been feeding bees to provide the necessary sustenance. Goldenrod and some asters have been the main nectar and pollen flow sources. There have been some reports of higher mite loads going into fall, thought to be migrating mites from crashing hives nearby. It is essential to monitor the hives and treat if necessary prior to the onset of winter. Honey sales have been very good and demand appears to be stable. Currently, beekeepers have ample amount of stores at hand, due to an excellent summer flow.

MINNESOTA: During the month of September temperatures were above normal across the entire State. Precipitation was below normal in Northern locations and above normal in Southern areas of the State, according to the National Weather Service. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, moisture conditions are normal over the entire State of Minnesota.

The 2016 honey production year has certainly not turned out as good as commercial honey producers had hoped for across Minnesota. With warmer temperatures and the lack of freezing temperatures to kill vegetation still prevailing in Minnesota, beekeepers indicated that bees are still flying. And although there is not much nectar available from foraging activities, there is still a fair amount of pollen that is making its way back to the bee colonies. Since the late freeze in the spring of 2016 that caused damage to the Basswood blooms, it has been a struggle for beekeepers. Many of the commercial beekeepers depend upon a good bloom set on Basswood trees and without the normally abundant crop of nectar from these trees, the resulting honey crop

overall has been a huge disappointment in Minnesota this year. Tallies of honey per colony are coming in way below normal towards the end of September.

Commercial beekeepers have just about finished pulling honey frames from colonies. As frames are removed beekeepers are treating for varroa mites. In some cases, according to beekeepers, the treatment is coming a little too late. There have been some major losses this fall in some colonies due to excessive varroa mite damage. Upwards of 50 percent losses of bees in some yards have been reported. Exact cause for this excessive mite load has not been determined yet. It is a theory that there may have been a higher population of undetected mites earlier in the season that was not known. Or spring treatments were not as effective as earlier thought. As beekeepers remove frames and administer varroa mite treatment they are also taking the opportunity to provide extra supplemental corn syrup and pollen substitutes to build colonies going into the fall and winter period where needed. Overall some colonies look good and some do not. Not as many issues have risen about Queen Bees during this season in Minnesota.

Overall demand for Minnesota honey is still very good and exceeds the local domestic production capacity. Current commercial prices for white honey range from \$1.65 to \$1.75 per pound. With the reports of lower honey production in Minnesota this season and reduced income revenues coming from sale of that raw honey, revenue from pollination services becomes very important moving forward for commercial beekeepers to remain viable. According to commercial beekeepers, the driving force on the lower prices they currently receive is influenced greatly by cheaper priced imported honey coming into the United States. Due to the currency rates favoring imported honey compared to domestic honey, many commercial beekeepers are having a harder time turning a profit. Most commercial beekeepers plan on staying in Minnesota until the end of October, at which time they will make the trip to Southern States or to California for the 2017 almond pollination season.

MISSISSIPPI: The bees are reported to be in good shape heading into the Fall months and the upcoming Goldenrod flow. The demand remains strong and quality good with low moisture and light amber in color. Prices have dropped to \$1.80-2.00 per pound for wildflower honey. Year round treatments for mites and other problems have kept the hives and bees in good condition and beekeepers are continuing management as currently needed.

MONTANA: No report issued.

NEW ENGLAND: New England weather for the month of September featured warmer than normal temperatures with an extended period of summer weather with many locations with record highs for the season. Keepers report huge populations of bees easily filling the entire area of 2 deeps for brood rearing with them constantly being used and refilled. In this regard many hives appear strong and heavy. Bees have been working *celthra alnifolia*, Mexican & Chinese bamboo, fall aster, staghorn sumac, white & sweet clover, thistle, purple loose strife, button bush, assorted wild weeds especially knotweed, sweet pepper bush, assorted wild flowers and particularly golden rod. Other late food sources still blooming are buckwheat, Indian silk and coreopsis to finish the month. The ornamentals, Joe-Pye weed, pickerel weed, sedum (stone crop) are out in abundance as well as jewel weed which leaves a slight white pollen mark on the thorax.

Overall bees are working hard with a strong population buildup. At this point in time, many keepers re-queen in the fall in order to have a strong, healthy queen and brood for the spring. The amount of brood rearing in the fall affects the winter adult population. The more young bees produced in the fall, the more adult bees there will be available for winter brood rearing. The queen begins reducing egg laying in November and may stop completely in December. Reportedly, many queens have stopped laying in many hives early with many new beekeepers concerned that they are going into winter without queens. In this case, many purportedly are showing a shortage of honey and pollen as well. Keepers advise on the need to observe 3 or 4 frames of brood in the early fall and plenty of food stores. Keepers are looking to maintain 3 or more deep frames of brood for as long as the queen will lay. Ideally, heavy egg laying is necessary by mid-September and feeding 2:1 sugar syrup will stimulate the queen to lay more heavily. At this time, keepers want to see 10 or more frames full of bees.

Currently bees are working diligently at storing as much nectar as possible. They are also working at evaporating moisture from the nectar. As the nectar is cured into honey, the bees will move the honey and arrange the stores for winter. Keepers inspect and are proceeding with the arrangement of honey supers for winter with the final setup being brood in the bottom with honey and pollen in the top. In early fall keepers will ensure that there are a couple of frames of honey on the outer edges of the bottom box. Keepers state that if the queen does not move to the bottom box by early October, then keepers will proceed to move all the brood frames to the bottom so honey can be stored in the top box and this will ensure that the top hive box is either full or advancing to be so by sugar feeding by the beginning of November. Keepers need as many young healthy bees as possible for the winter. Bees live longer in the winter because they don't get worn out foraging. Beekeepers have been busy concentrating on extracting honey as well as winter preparations which focus on the treatments for nosema, chalkbrood, wax moth, hive beetle, and also American foulbrood, varroa and tracheal mites.

In New England, this is traditionally the time when beekeepers are stripping off any remaining honey supers and treating their colonies for varroa mites. Additionally, it is also the beginning of the winter management cycle as beekeepers try to get their colonies as well fed and healthy before winter bees are bred. This is also the month we begin to see the precipitous increase in varroa mite population which, if left unchecked, can devastate a colony by late fall. Depending on location, the honey flow is ending thus it is time to take out fully capped frames for extraction while leaving enough for fall/winter feeding. Nutrition in the form of natural forage is now very limited and sugar syrup and pollen substitutes are needed to improve colony survival and performance.

Seasoned beekeepers have observed that early on- back in July, many hives had high levels of mite infestation with the possibility that nosema disease was the main causal agent. Several keepers complained about slow growth in their hives. It would logically follow that a shortened lifespan of workers would consequently impact the foraging population and thus result in less nectar collection. Some experienced beekeepers advised treating with Fumigellin-B and consequently observed marked improvement after treatment for nosema. Nosema disease has been a growing concern, hence more difficult for beekeepers to identify and being blamed for hives failing to thrive. Reportedly this year, there has been a huge increase in wax moth presence especially on bottom boards and on inside covers due to warmer weather. Wax moth and mice were a big problem last winter and spring. More attention to mouse guards and preventing wax moths are being discussed at bee association meetings. Keepers report that hives are showing early eviction of drones and swarming was a problem in several regional areas.

Seasoned keepers claim that September is the final exam for beekeepers. If you can control varroa mites and nosema disease then you will improve the chances of winter survival by four. In many regional areas, purportedly mites have been heavy and many keepers are still trying to get honey off hives and treat for mites. Reportedly, the new formic acid quick strips seem to be the preferred treatment, however, back orders have held up beekeepers from getting them earlier. Overall, the 2016 season was a reasonably good season by exhibiting the noted concerns with bee health, a much higher average of honey production and good conditions for queen rearing.

Demand at all retail/wholesale outlets remains good and honey sales remain firm. Prices quoted for retail 1lb bottled units were strong and quoted at \$9.00 to \$12.00 mostly \$10.00 and occasionally higher inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations prices were strong with 5 gallon units selling at \$200.00 to \$245.00 mostly \$220.00 occasionally higher for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality. Prices and demand for local and regional honey has been excellent.

Prices vary but prices quoted exclusively for white, cleaned beeswax are steady and for 1lb block units at \$5.50 to \$5.75 mostly \$5.50 and for 50lb block units at \$4.75 to \$5.00 mostly \$4.75. Price quotes taken for bulk orders above 50lbs are \$2.20 to \$3.50 mostly \$3.50 for white/light, cleaned beeswax. Gray colored utility wax can be bought for less. Retail wax prices are \$16.00-20.00 a pound cleaned. White wax is the most expensive. Most hobbyists like a canary yellow color for candle making with the color being determined by pollen and honey color.

NEW YORK: In the Central region of the state, summer going into fall has been the driest on record. Creek beds are dry and ponds are mud flats; Taughannock Falls (the highest falls east of the Mississippi) has only a trickle dripping currently. The draught has also been devastating for vegetable growers in the area, who ran out of irrigation water long ago. The beekeepers fared slightly better and the rain that has passed through has been sporadic, hitting one area hard, while totally missing the neighbors. Consequently, the bigger beekeepers with yards spread over a larger area could have been buffered somewhat. Bees are in rough shape without having been fed in August; the August dearth was extremely high. The hives have mites, not great quantities of pollen and the goldenrod/aster flows were marginal, leaving the hives in less than optimal conditions for overwintering. It was difficult to raise queens and do splits this summer without extensive feeding; thus the summer nuc build up was inconsistent. One plant that seemed to fare well this month has been Japanese Knotweed, as it has large tuberous roots and is an invasive species along swamps and lowlands. The plants produces a rich, dark red-brown honey that is very good, although not preferred by tea drinkers, who prefer lighter honey. There is talk that the bigger producers are looking for light spring honeys to supplement their meager crops. The low production estimates, an average of 60% of what would be an average crop, should increase wholesale and consequently retail prices, especially for the light spring honeys. Good local varietal honey could sell for \$8.00 pound retail, although \$6.00-7.50 more likely. Once the fall crop is recovered and projections established, the wholesale prices per pound in the Northeast will potentially see new highs.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina were above normal throughout September. Precipitation varied by region with the Coastal Plains receiving some much needed rainfall by way of Tropical Storm Hermine; while the Western Piedmont and Mountain regions remained dry. Overall, statewide soil moisture levels were rated 8 percent very short, 19.5 percent short, 53 percent adequate, and 19.5 percent surplus the week ending September 24. The North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council reported 35 counties as being abnormally dry, 18 counties experiencing moderate drought conditions, and 2 county suffering from severe drought conditions.

Colony condition continued to vary by management practices and experience. According to apiary inspectors, some hives were very healthy and strong, while others were struggling. Those that did not manage well for mites were suffering from various stages of bee parasitic mite syndrome, as well as increased populations of small hive beetles. Other pressures included excessive heat, high humidity, and little rainfall; leaving the fall nectar flow very light. Where available, bees could be seen working Aster throughout the state; Heartsease, Smartweed was available in the Piedmont region as well as Goldenrod which stretched east to the Coastal Plains region.

Consumer demand for honey remained high as supply remains light. Retail prices at the Raleigh State Farmers' Market remained steady and were: \$8.00 per 8 ounce jar, \$13.00 per 16 ounce jar, \$22.00 per 32 ounce jar, and \$18.00 per 44 ounce jar. Prices at the Piedmont Triad Farmers' Market in Greensboro were: \$8.00 per 8 ounce jar, \$12.00 per 16 ounce jar, and \$20.00 per 32 ounce jar.

Commercial pollinator hives from the Western Piedmont were moved to Florida in September to take advantage of the Brazilian Pepper tree flow; as well as the warmer winter temperatures in hopes of building strong colonies that will produce replacements bees to sell in early 2017.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: The weather is cooling off and the harvests are winding down. Final cuts on alfalfa and sunflowers are finished. Crops were finishing about average some ahead and some slight behind generally depending on location and weather patterns. Honey production is mixed depending on location but generally better than last season in most areas. Beekeepers are preparing and moving bees to their winter homes.

OHIO: Beekeepers are disappointed with little to no summer honey crop due to drought. Recent rains have helped but the verdict is still out on a fall harvest. Supplemental feeding has been a must for everyone this year. Lots of colonies had drones kicked out this summer due to the lack of food, and many beekeepers were actually feeding most of July just to keep up. On a more positive note, mite pressure has been light and beetles nearly non-existent in northeastern Ohio. Honey prices are strong at local farm markets, although shelf prices appear to be weak. Demand for local honey continues to grow, especially with lots of news regarding bees available in the media.

OKLAHOMA: No report issued.

OREGON: No report issued.

SOUTH CAROLINA: No report issued.

TENNESSEE: The fall flow finally started in late September. Goldenrod and asters are finally producing nectar. Small hive beetles have been an issue sporadically across the state causing colonies to abscond.

TEXAS: No report issued.

WASHINGTON: Apple and pear harvest is in full swing. The weather has generally been very good with moderate temperatures and cooling and night for color on the apples. Bee activity was winding down and some supplemental feeding was going on. Beekeepers were preparing for fall and winter some staying local, others moving to overwinter homes.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures for the month of September were normal and rainfall was above average for the state of Wisconsin, according to a few of the beekeepers. They have begun combating mites with miticidal strips and oxalic acid. They report a normal, healthy population of bees. Beekeepers report very little wild foliage for their bees with goldenrod and aster as the only flowers remaining. They have begun supplemental feeding of the bees. No production reported in September was reported. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

U.S Exports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

	Year to Date		AUGUST 2016	
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -				
Bahamas, The	3,283	12,972	0	0
Bahrain	32,757	79,512	0	0
Barbados	12,018	63,619	898	5,382
Bermuda	12,675	59,892	3,175	12,384
Cambodia	999	7,686	0	0
Cayman Islands	2,238	13,272	0	0
China	335,646	1,170,876	17,436	60,148
Guyana	2,612	22,662	816	7,067
Hong Kong	13,507	45,736	921	6,700
Japan	93,279	333,021	0	0
Jordan	733	3,676	0	0
Korea, South	243,845	1,041,186	55,958	271,380
Kuwait	234,198	570,748	0	0
Lebanon	408	3,221	0	0
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	721	7,627	0	0
Malaysia	353	4,613	0	0
Mongolia	650	5,036	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)	10,309	65,236	1,521	9,309
New Zealand(*)	1,772	4,302	1,772	4,302
Pakistan	18,309	44,442	0	0
Panama	24,151	128,662	6,286	37,675
Philippines	446,378	1,088,536	7,366	21,029
Saudi Arabia	15,574	69,813	540	3,859
Singapore	73,221	195,562	0	0
United Arab Emirates	306,267	761,583	0	0
Vietnam	675	6,963	0	0
Yemen(*)	256,529	821,964	0	0

NATURAL HONEY, NOT ELSEWHERE INDICATED OR SPECIFIED - - -

Australia(*)	61,570	199,313	0	0
Bahamas, The	24,991	148,822	3,013	11,437
Barbados	11,934	54,285	0	0
Bermuda	10,391	62,267	1,164	9,001
Brazil	19,108	62,622	0	0
Cambodia	3,122	22,704	1,145	8,433
Canada	538,952	2,388,871	45,961	263,210
Cayman Islands	2,388	13,284	0	0
China	89,670	315,866	0	0
Dominican Republic	2,536	9,520	0	0
France(*)	11,923	28,940	0	0
Hong Kong	59,688	305,590	0	0
Indonesia	19,113	50,750	0	0
Jamaica	1,815	5,915	0	0
Japan	54,291	192,261	230	3,555
Jordan	394	4,659	394	4,659
Korea, South	8,640	15,999	0	0
Kuwait	410	2,928	0	0

Leeward-Windward Islands(*)	567	2,510	0	0
Mexico	30,482	135,084	7,258	37,300
Netherlands Antilles(*)	4,401	33,412	279	3,144
Philippines	11,848	69,510	639	4,500
Saudi Arabia	4,092	9,930	2,938	7,130
Singapore	9,678	58,284	3,004	20,900
Taiwan	81,180	172,260	0	0
Trinidad and Tobago	3,492	10,192	0	0
United Arab Emirates	22,169	83,781	3,832	10,670
Venezuela	18,597	34,410	0	0
Vietnam	653	4,820	653	4,820
GRAND TOTAL	3,251,202	11,131,207	167,199	827,994

U.S Imports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

Year to Date			AUGUST 2016		
Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	CIF Value Dollars

WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	5,534,035	12,554,789	12,927,884	603,033	1,139,622	1,198,436
Brazil	302,856	1,079,919	1,110,434	0	0	0
Canada	6,896,901	18,260,739	18,425,079	1,590,171	4,345,089	4,375,733
Dominican Republic	195	2,232	2,455	195	2,232	2,455
Egypt	3,419	18,375	18,766	0	0	0
France(*)	536	5,172	5,414	0	0	0
India	258,509	546,143	570,525	0	0	0
Italy(*)	9,251	92,607	106,840	947	11,207	12,057
Mexico	1,105,826	3,885,115	3,926,429	202,141	539,018	545,174
New Zealand(*)	9,199	19,985	33,301	0	0	0
Serbia	1,106	6,442	6,445	0	0	0
Taiwan	173,939	337,960	351,265	56,805	117,565	121,445
Turkey	9,297	62,761	62,762	0	0	0
United Kingdom	1,858	13,779	14,256	732	2,511	2,576
Uruguay	37,311	93,465	93,835	18,189	34,376	34,558

EXTRA LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -

Argentina	10,469,051	24,066,394	24,842,960	1,924,752	3,559,597	3,756,927
Australia(*)	54,906	215,932	220,992	15,906	54,082	55,582
Brazil	250,101	884,310	926,510	19,244	67,354	67,854
Canada	279,238	1,092,703	1,098,307	28,981	106,818	107,021
France(*)	3,223	51,718	55,377	507	9,169	9,271
India	7,833,065	16,291,393	17,011,404	1,057,470	1,838,742	1,921,107
Italy(*)	6,367	33,913	36,245	0	0	0
Mexico	941,505	3,406,028	3,460,638	110,493	386,238	389,058
Pakistan	18,519	48,160	48,900	0	0	0
Portugal	2,308	14,637	15,131	0	0	0
Spain	18,560	96,411	100,911	0	0	0
Taiwan	805,274	1,690,104	1,691,706	0	0	0
Thailand	835,650	2,031,164	2,080,344	92,800	208,800	219,075
Ukraine	3,428,714	8,354,310	8,684,723	37,920	84,060	88,000
Uruguay	45,956	156,248	159,348	0	0	0
Vietnam	559,677	1,361,337	1,457,122	153,199	383,714	413,264

LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE –

Argentina	5,267,692	10,296,870	10,701,548	1,273,274	2,178,618	2,294,691
Armenia	14,028	71,681	78,086	2,996	24,420	25,825
Australia(*)	13,064	208,645	210,320	8,816	143,752	144,930
Austria	51,234	493,343	530,066	8,576	80,665	87,539
Brazil	1,061,570	3,440,285	3,607,398	188,877	660,114	685,754
Bulgaria	2,286	8,700	9,583	0	0	0
Burma	427,800	914,853	968,343	0	0	0
Canada	336,119	826,045	833,768	0	0	0
China	1,069	6,375	6,376	0	0	0
Croatia	2,126	11,158	11,497	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	161,794	494,610	514,414	17,002	54,210	57,718
France(*)	315	8,292	8,845	315	8,292	8,845
Germany(*)	391,948	2,112,110	2,195,768	69,960	405,591	424,091
Greece	2,540	18,165	19,147	0	0	0
India	10,410,095	21,665,467	22,373,032	1,270,401	2,064,392	2,143,698
Israel(*)	708	7,280	7,515	0	0	0
Italy(*)	4,366	73,334	74,690	233	3,777	3,844
Laos	19,500	33,150	34,931	0	0	0
Malaysia	19,200	48,000	48,001	0	0	0
Mexico	436,487	1,494,533	1,513,758	82,732	308,202	314,426
New Zealand(*)	64,473	319,664	333,589	1,200	20,283	20,424
Pakistan	1,084	8,325	9,157	0	0	0
Poland	1,253	7,672	8,919	0	0	0
Romania	1,207	8,187	10,012	0	0	0
Russia	8,250	19,247	19,454	0	0	0
Spain	11,491	95,441	97,405	1,504	10,857	11,184
Switzerland(*)	257	3,893	3,894	0	0	0
Taiwan	18,560	26,170	28,170	0	0	0
Thailand	2,502,486	5,731,066	5,992,423	281,600	519,785	538,005
Turkey	1,693,140	5,126,293	5,565,243	0	0	0
Ukraine	940,735	2,316,102	2,509,308	148,480	339,090	369,839
Uruguay	1,553,611	3,150,553	3,233,729	73,225	129,150	134,994
Vietnam	17,160,800	32,040,230	33,713,639	3,444,675	5,200,921	5,466,740

NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICATED ---

Albania	275	2,112	2,477	0	0	0
Argentina	350,374	752,538	768,235	78,661	187,571	188,072
Australia(*)	2,243	18,491	19,391	0	0	0
Brazil	132,286	460,560	478,816	94,701	333,066	343,307
Bulgaria	804	2,088	2,448	0	0	0
Canada	92,729	224,009	225,115	59,147	154,783	155,035
China	55	2,970	3,045	0	0	0
Croatia	1,807	3,426	3,427	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	121,908	295,104	304,681	44,870	101,699	106,109
France(*)	5,759	81,953	86,861	723	12,697	13,529
Greece	27,746	195,305	208,974	0	0	0
Hungary	2,956	18,114	19,614	0	0	0
India	180,324	518,595	536,872	47,248	151,689	156,978
Israel(*)	5,222	46,359	48,864	0	0	0
Italy(*)	9,760	118,249	122,014	2,566	31,224	32,462
Korea, South	979	8,409	8,661	0	0	0
Lithuania	2,792	13,425	14,425	0	0	0
Mexico	186,089	588,064	596,002	25,710	71,928	72,465

National Honey Report – Vol. XXXVI - #10**Page 9****October 25, 2016**

New Zealand(*)	340,667	4,241,191	4,350,441	11,372	144,710	151,188
Pakistan	2,138	10,285	10,690	0	0	0
Poland	11,634	71,514	79,023	0	0	0
Russia	21,811	77,989	84,256	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	9,353	71,030	73,490	0	0	0
Sierra Leone	58,590	160,230	175,230	0	0	0
Spain	46,636	293,731	303,762	18,621	77,383	80,759
Taiwan	144,441	432,117	452,157	672	2,847	2,927
Thailand	18,300	27,267	27,449	18,300	27,267	27,449
Ukraine	47,574	114,810	126,004	14,500	21,460	23,606
United Arab Emirates	2,010	2,671	2,905	0	0	0
United Kingdom	23,597	210,554	226,177	1,100	21,293	21,378
Vietnam	6,147,670	10,515,034	11,394,613	1,140,669	1,508,078	1,633,343
Yemen(*)	40	4,000	4,664	0	0	0

COMB AND RETAIL HONEY –

Armenia	4,204	46,381	48,068	0	0	0
Australia(*)	19,724	162,146	165,221	0	0	0
Austria	7,244	87,390	96,401	1,865	20,120	22,365
Belarus	1,280	7,639	8,564	0	0	0
Brazil	8,434	64,207	65,601	0	0	0
Bulgaria	145,987	494,730	521,465	0	0	0
Canada	119,009	686,704	691,638	18,282	61,636	61,764
Cyprus	1,925	10,234	11,713	0	0	0
Denmark(*)	3,898	32,831	33,576	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	9,325	24,835	26,203	2,438	6,720	6,721
Egypt	14,293	29,272	30,779	0	0	0
France(*)	232,410	1,489,142	1,560,966	36,824	161,412	168,131
Germany(*)	118,153	747,077	782,199	0	0	0
Greece	34,966	421,037	427,931	0	0	0
Guatemala	11,360	56,900	59,109	0	0	0
Hungary	70,853	589,941	612,519	0	0	0
India	537,655	1,516,790	1,576,035	150,148	346,852	356,703
Israel(*)	7,629	48,360	50,949	3,689	22,620	23,159
Italy(*)	22,234	284,237	296,536	4,236	53,418	56,851
Korea, South	187	7,000	9,320	0	0	0
Lebanon	1,650	21,075	22,219	0	0	0
Lithuania	9,300	37,940	41,733	0	0	0
Mexico	60,975	194,949	201,453	36,600	68,442	70,442
Moldova	7,985	30,532	33,606	6,511	21,653	23,849
New Zealand(*)	765,155	8,159,276	8,284,404	148,828	1,548,425	1,570,763
Poland	11,845	67,479	71,892	0	0	0
Portugal	16,099	108,744	113,267	0	0	0
Romania	19,609	53,237	59,644	0	0	0
Russia	63,689	290,537	319,591	1,064	2,599	2,859
Saudi Arabia	3,332	22,042	22,047	0	0	0
Serbia	5,460	43,701	46,592	540	5,844	6,382
Spain	217,577	1,490,197	1,565,376	49,268	354,682	368,832
Switzerland(*)	5,648	93,797	99,189	391	6,710	7,149
Taiwan	87,572	125,083	131,164	4,086	3,225	3,426
Turkey	99,358	710,153	732,989	0	0	0
Ukraine	63,637	205,348	226,067	10,056	33,828	37,211
United Kingdom	3,734	26,664	27,862	0	0	0

FLAVORED HONEY –

Australia(*)	921	145,098	146,452	0	0	0
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	12,941	315,331	328,921	0	0	0

National Honey Report – Vol. XXXVI - #10**Page 10****October 25, 2016**

Canada	378,873	538,515	539,069	373,869	498,777	499,089
China	20,000	61,600	64,007	0	0	0
Denmark(*)	147	2,058	2,059	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	18,685	194,239	195,959	3,974	34,174	34,505
Finland	109	7,433	8,969	0	0	0
France(*)	10,752	19,390	20,961	0	0	0
Greece	3,087	7,658	8,114	0	0	0
India	89,064	208,167	218,152	0	0	0
Ireland	1,382	14,239	15,307	0	0	0
Italy(*)	385	14,307	14,899	132	3,650	3,735
Korea, South	233,519	3,148,743	3,201,724	14,694	264,695	268,324
Malaysia	864	3,000	3,110	864	3,000	3,110
Mexico	64,881	656,547	661,051	0	0	0
Peru	911	5,580	5,922	492	2,970	3,166
Taiwan	13,734	30,717	32,697	0	0	0
Thailand	25,635	103,364	105,118	0	0	0
Turkey	915	4,744	4,859	0	0	0
Ukraine	1,052	9,685	10,418	0	0	0
United Kingdom	272	8,089	8,590	0	0	0

ORGANIC HONEY –

Argentina	49,748	201,298	206,564	0	0	0
Australia(*)	17,917	139,967	145,713	0	0	0
Brazil	11,805,834	41,530,137	42,955,874	1,004,179	3,805,628	3,942,554
Canada	772,890	3,163,260	3,174,421	139,286	588,288	590,259
Denmark(*)	898	7,424	7,845	449	3,826	3,989
Dominican Republic	18,856	74,414	76,786	0	0	0
Greece	1,212	26,390	29,133	0	0	0
India	18,731	59,975	61,932	0	0	0
Italy(*)	11,385	107,263	110,139	771	9,874	9,945
Mexico	707,460	2,438,260	2,484,987	75,128	275,840	279,153
New Zealand(*)	52,167	319,717	341,768	13,034	77,555	82,835
Spain	1,561	18,959	19,491	0	0	0
Taiwan	57,420	102,016	102,216	0	0	0
Vietnam	37,120	54,400	60,262	0	0	0
Zambia	18,300	25,090	25,091	0	0	0

GRAND TOTAL	107,739,232	279,696,859	290,051,587	16,447,909	36,176,471	37,568,018
--------------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	------------	------------	------------

Notes:

1. Data Source: Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics
2. All zeroes for a data item may show that statistics exist in the other import type. Consumption or General.
3. (*) denotes a country that is a summarization of its component countries.
4. Users should use cautious interpretation on QUANTITY reports using mixed units of measure.
QUANTITY line items will only include statistics on the units of measure that are equal to, or are able to be converted to, the assigned unit of measure of the grouped commodities.
5. The CIF Value is not included within the 13th month data loads. This means that the CIF Value will be zero (0) for any records that are inserted during this process.
6. Product Group : Harmonized